



# The Octopus

The Newsletter of the Orange County Underwater Photographic Society March 2013

[www.ocups.org](http://www.ocups.org)

March 12, 2013

Andy Sallmon and Allison Vitsky Sallmon

## How to Successfully Take Photograph in the Kelp Forest

Andy Sallmon and Allison Vitsky Sallmon are a photography/writing team that has been working together since 2010. Andy's educational background in marine biology and Allison's in veterinary medicine provide a unique perspective on our oceans and the life they hold. Individually, their work has been recognized in numerous international underwater and nature photography competitions, featured on the walls of aquariums and museums, and published in books and magazines on diving, nature, and photography. The two combined have over 50 years of recreational and technical diving experience with more than 10,000 dives all over the world. However, their favorite place to dive is the rich, temperate water of their home state: California. Andy and Allison live in San Diego.

See more of Andy's work at [www.seait.com](http://www.seait.com) and Allison's work at [www.avitsky.com](http://www.avitsky.com)

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### March Club Contest

White  
(subject is white)

**The entry fee is \$2/per images up to two images, \$5 for three images.**

Slides are still accepted for entries but the slide projector is not brought to the meeting unless you contact Linda in advance. Call 949-837-7734  
Digital Submission Guidelines:

Check out the OCUPS Web site at [www.ocups.org](http://www.ocups.org)

**DIGITAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** Digital photographers that would like to participate in the monthly contest don't forget to send your .jpg file to [ocups1@gmail](mailto:ocups1@gmail.com) no later than the Sunday before the meeting

Please email your entries to [ocups1@gmail.com](mailto:ocups1@gmail.com), no later than Sunday evening.

**FILE FORMAT: JPEG sized at 1024 x 768 (or 1024 on the longest side)**

#### Naming and Formating your files:

Category Abbreviation Key: OPE=Open, ADV=Advanced, AMA=Amateur as follows:

Naming File: Category Abbreviation, dash, First Name Initial, Last Name, image number.

**Example**, if your name is Babe Nemo and you are submitting 3 photos, in the Amateur category, the file names should be:

AMA\_BNemo1  
AMA\_BNemo2  
AMA\_BNemo3

Examples of Advanced and Open:

ADV\_BNemo1  
OPE\_BNemo1

FILE FORMAT& SIZE: Please use JPEG sized at 1024 x 768 (or 1024 maximum, on the longest side).

See complete contest rules near end of Newsletter

#### For Prelude images:

P\_WM01 ; P\_WM02 ; P\_WM03 ; etc.

"P" indicates "Prelude", and letters are your name initials, followed by a number sequence for your images.

For number sequence use 01, 02 for the single digit number, so photos stay in the order you want.

Either email your prelude images, in advance, or bring them on a CD or jumpdrive.

### Club Officers 2013

President.....Linda Blanchard  
Vice President.....Allan Jones  
Treasurer and Membership....Jane Huessener  
Work shops..... Bonnie Pelnar/Allan Jones  
Monthly Contest..... Michael Bonneau  
Newsletter..... Johanna & Bruce Wight  
Refreshments..... Marcia Holland  
Web Master..... Kevin Lee  
Speaker Chair.....Tim Baskin  
Special Events.....Roeland Papin

Prelude limits to 10 to 15 slides, video 3 minutes or less.  
Preludes will be shown dependent on time available.

## OCUPS videographers:

Instead of bringing your entries on a thumb drive or DVD, please upload them to this website:

<https://www.wetransfer.com/>

**Please try not to reenter previous OCUPS winning photos in future OCUPS contest.**

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## Mentors Corner

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The mentor program has been set up to answer your questions or critique your images before the meeting. If you would like help with an area of photography or videography send an email or call and I will set you up with a mentor. This way a member with the skills to help will be available to mentor you before the meeting. We hope this program will be of benefit to beginning as well as advanced photographers that are working on improving their skills. You can contact me at [ljbdiver@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ljbdiver@sbcglobal.net) or call 949-837-7734.

Mentors: set up mentor and time before the meeting.

Linda

OCUPS News Letter Submission Schedule deadlines:

February Newsletter	Received by January 21
March Newsletter	Received by February 21
April Newsletter	Received by March 25
May Newsletter	Received by April 21
June Newsletter	Received by May 21
July Newsletter	Received by June 27
August Newsletter	Received by July 25
September Newsletter	Received by August 20
October Newsletter	Received by September 22
November Newsletter	Received by October 21
December Newsletter	Received by November 20

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## Announcements

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### OCUPS Meeting Parking

**We are able to have our meetings at the current location for no charge.**

Park Plaza has asked us not to park in the front of the building, that is the side with the doors. We need to park in the back area or next door in the business complex.

**Our new website is now live at**  
[www.ocups.org](http://www.ocups.org).

**Many Thanks to Bonnie!**

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**MERCHANDISE WITH OCUPS LOGO**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Shirts, blouses, jackets, caps and other merchandise can be ordered with the embroidered club logo. See the complete catalog at [CompanyCasuals.com/rjemb](http://CompanyCasuals.com/rjemb). If the item you order is over ten dollars there is no charge for the embroidered logo. If the ordered item is less than ten dollars, the price will remain at ten dollars. There is no minimum order for embroidered pieces. Silk screen items are available, however, there is a 15 minimum order required. The embroidered logo can also be placed on articles of clothing you already have at a price of \$6.00.

R J Embroidery  
Rhonda Mertins  
331 Lassen Circle  
Placentia, CA 92870  
Home phone: 714-223-9683  
Cell: 714-396-7034  
Fax: 714-223-7483

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## NCUPS SEA International Photo and Video Contest

Our friends up north are now accepting entries for this year's NCUPS SEA International Photo and Video Contest:

<http://sea.ncups.org/>

You can enter any time before April 12.

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### Photo Video West

*Photo Video West, the go-to event for photography enthusiasts on the West Coast, returns to San Diego April 27-28, 2013. Previously known as Photo Expo West, Photo Video West is a photography and video expo featuring two action-packed days filled with seminars led by photography pros, live interactive demos, product specials, photo contests, portfolio reviews, raffle prizes, and more! Thousands of photographers from all levels will gather to learn, share, network, and expand their photographic abilities.*

**Photography Seminars:** Expand your photographic abilities by attending seminars led by celebrated photographers, local industry experts, renowned videographers, and other truly amazing talents.

**Photo Contest:** Enter your work into the World Cup of Photography photo

contest for a chance to win cash and prizes.

**Portfolio Review Sessions:** For an additional fee, attendees can sign up for portfolio review sessions to have their work viewed by a trained professional.

website, [www.photovideowest.com](http://www.photovideowest.com).

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## Subjects of Interest

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### Photographing White Subjects

A common problem photographing scenes dominated by white subjects is to underexpose them causing them to be a shade of gray instead of white. Why does this happen? The camera's light meter is working to help expose the photo correctly so no matter the amount of light on a subject the meter sees the subject as "middle" gray and adjusts everything to be "middle" gray in the photo. This works for most photos because "middle" gray is the tone of most scenes. However, this consequently causes the under exposure of white dominated photos and over exposure of dark dominated photos because the meter is fooled trying to make everything middle gray.

There is help for this, the EV (Exposure Value) setting can be adjusted to compensate for this. For white dominated scenes adjusting the EV to a + (plus) number will over expose it there by compensating for the under exposure of white dominated scenes. So if your photo looks too dark (under exposed), you need to add more light so use a "plus" EV.

For dark dominated scenes, the meter will over expose them working for that middle gray, so adjust the EV to a - (minus) number. Meaning, if your photo looks too light (over exposed), you need to add less light so use a "minus" EV.

One more thing, maybe the most important, is "correct" exposure is subjective, meaning you as a photographer have artistic license to use the EV settings creatively. Experiment with different EV settings to get the effect you want and most importantly have fun doing it.

# MONTHLY PHOTO COMPETITION

## February 2013 Contest Winners

### VIDEO

1st: Johanna Wight  
2nd: Michael Bonneau  
3rd: Walter Marti

### OPEN

1st: Michael Bonneau  
2nd: Bruce Wight  
3rd: Bruce Wight

### ADVANCED

1st: Patrick Smith  
2nd: Bob Pasqua  
3rd: Patrick Smith

### AMATEUR

1st: Lee Huessener  
2nd: Deanne Beck  
3rd: Julianne Steers

## Contest Categories 2013

January – Patterns

February - Eye Contact (animal appears to be looking at you)

March – White

April –Diagonal

May - Kelp/Seaweed

June - Black & White Photo

July - Benthic Fish

August - Eating/Feeding

September- Sunlight Rays

October- Compositions using Bokeh (Bokeh is a technique used by photographer's skillfully to melt the edges and blur the background into itself with a focal point.)

November –Urchins

December - No Contest

# CONTEST LEVELS

## Contestant Levels and Advancement

### 1. **AMATEUR**

Only global changes\* are allowed. This category includes members shooting an SLR camera system, with one year or less of underwater photography experience, or shooting with a point and shoot (PAS) camera. At the end of the year the first place winner/s or any member attaining 18 points shall advance to Amateur. PAS camera users who have advanced to the Amateur category and have entered images for at least 6 months, but have not accrued more than 6 points, may choose to return to the Amateur category the following year.

### 2. **ADVANCED**

Only global changes\* are allowed. This category includes members having at least one year experience in underwater photography or who no longer qualify for the Amateur category. PAS camera shooters may choose, or be required, to be in this category. At the end of the first year, the first place winner/s or any member attaining at least 18 points (board confirmed) shall advance to the Open category. Members who have advanced to the Open category and have entered images for at least 6 months but have not accrued more than 6 points, may choose to return to the Advanced category the following year.

### 3. **OPEN**

Digital manipulation is allowed except for composite imaging (adding to an image). This category includes members who are considered professional or advanced underwater photographers by the OCUPS board or any member wishing to manipulate their images beyond basic global changes\*. Open category members who have entered images for at least 6 months but have not accrued more than 6 points may choose to return to the Advanced category the following year.

\*Definition of Global Modification: Changes that affect the entire images, such as cropping, saturation, white balance, levels, sharpening, and contrast. Prohibited modifications would include the use of layers or other tools that are applied to a specific area i.e. brushes, healing, cloning, etc. Contestants may enter images for only one still category in a given year. However, the video category is separate and may be entered independent of the still category. Member eligibility for a category will be determined at the first of the year or when joining the club. Members may choose to move up a category, but not down, during the year, forfeiting all previous points accumulated.

Photographers taking photos with both PAS and SLR cameras will be classified as an SLR photographer. PAS photographers are not restricted to the Amateur category. The OCUPS board may review eligibility qualifications and request a member to change their category.

**Fee:** Please contribute \$2 per slide up to 2 slides and \$5 for 3 slides entered.... this money goes to help pay for the awesome trophies and plaques at the end of the year. We, however, do not need any money to improve the Perpetual Trophy for Flooding, it is a gem just the way it is!

## Monthly Contest Winners

If you want your winning photo posted on the OCUPS Web site, email a .jpeg file of your winning photo to the Kevin Lee at [diverkevin@gmail.com](mailto:diverkevin@gmail.com)  
Allan Jones can scan slides if needed  
[divers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:divers@sbcglobal.net)

## Videographers

Prelude Video short clips are welcome. They can be on a CD, jump drive or bring your camera to connect.

**Orange County Underwater Photographic Society  
OCUPS  
Monthly Photo Contest Rules**

**General**

1. This competition is open to OCUPS members only.
2. The entry fee is \$2 per submission or \$5 for three submissions maximum.
3. Captured frames from streaming video are not allowed as single image contest entries. Digital images should be emailed, not later than Sunday evening preceding the meeting, to: [ocups1@gmail.com](mailto:ocups1@gmail.com)
4. Digital Submission Guidelines:  
Please name your files in the following format:  
Category Abbreviation, a dash, First Name Initial, Last Name, image number.

For example, if your name is Babe Nemo and you are submitting 3 photos, in the Amateur category, the file names should be: AMA-BNemo1, AMA-BNemo2, and AMA-BNemo3

Category Abbreviation Key:  
OPE=Open, ADV=Advanced, AMA= Amateur

FILE FORMAT& SIZE:: Please use JPEG sized at 1024 x 768 (or 1024 maximum, on the longest side).

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Photos should be submitted by Sunday evening, prior to the club meeting. The Club is not responsible if the digital images will not project.

5. Only global (full-frame) modification of images is allowed for Amateur and Advanced categories. Global modifications are those that affect the entire image, such as cropping, saturation, white balance, levels, sharpening, and contrast. Prohibited modifications would include the use of layers or other tools that are applied to specific areas i.e. brushes, healing, cloning, and so on.
6. In the event of a challenge, the original image file or slide must be made available to the Club officers at the next meeting.
7. The entrant must have exposed all images underwater unless specified as a topside contest. Aquarium, pool and tank shots are not permitted.
8. No entry or copy of image that has previously won in an OCUPS competition may be re-entered in a subsequent contest.
9. The contest theme or subject must be the focal area of the image.
10. The Contest Director may disqualify any entry for rule stretching, marine conservation issues, out of theme or level entries.

**11. VIDEO CONTEST RULES**

- a. Videos can be up to 30 seconds, unedited, continuous clip. As in stills, global changes are allowed.
- b. Themes will be the same as for the still contest for the month but only one level, everyone in one category
- c. Videos may be taken on a video camera or the video function of a digital still camera. A series of still shots is not permitted.
- d. Up to two entries per month per person.
- e. Members may enter in both the video and the still competition each month.
- f. Do NOT include your name in the video file name; rather, choose a neutral name so that the owner cannot be identified, when video clips are shown for judging.
- g. Do not email video files, as they are too large. Instead, video should be brought as an AVI file (or Mac equivalent) on a jump drive (preferred method), CD, DVD, or on a tape with your camera and cables for connection to the projector.

12. Permission to reproduce any entry, only for purposes of OCUPS publicity, is assumed unless otherwise specified. All ownership and rights remain with the photographer.

13. ATTENDANCE REQUIRED TO PLACE: Entrants must be present at the meeting to place in the photo contest. However, if you leave prior to the contest conclusion, you still qualify to place, as long as you were present sometime during the meeting. If you do not plan on attending the meeting, please do not enter photos.

**Contest Points (updated 2012)**

1. First, second, and third place entries are all considered winning entries.
2. Points are awarded as follows: First = 3 points; Second = 2 points; Third = 1 point.
3. All winning places shall receive corresponding points, irrespective of ties.
4. Two entrants, minimum, are required to hold a contest in a particular category (Open, Advanced & Amateur) and award points.
5. For monthly photo contests where there is only one entrant in Amateur or Advanced categories, the entrant is allowed to compete in the next higher category, only for that month. And, if the entrant places in the higher category, points for the placement will be awarded but be applied to their original category e.g. if a sole Amateur entrant participates in the Advanced contest and wins 2nd place, the entrant would receive 2 points in their original Amateur category.

